

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute claims 1-79 with the following:

1. (Original) A content secondary distribution management system comprising a plurality of user devices, for managing secondary distribution in which a transaction of content usable by a user device is performed between said plurality of user devices, wherein a settlement log for the use of the content is issued from a content providing user device to one of a service provider and a clearing center every time an identical content is distributed, and settlement processing for the identical content is performed under the management of said one of a service provider and a clearing center.

2. (Original) A content secondary distribution management system according to claim 1, wherein:

a content receiving user device for receiving the content deducts a content usage fee from an electronic money balance disposed in said content receiving user device up to an allowable amount of money set in an issue log based on information of a usage control policy of the content, and said content receiving user device creates a usage log including a content identifier and sends said usage log to said content providing user device;

said content providing user device creates a receive log including information of the content usage fee based on said usage log received from said content receiving user device, and sends said receive log to said one of a service provider and a clearing center;

said one of a service provider and a clearing center performs the settlement processing for the electronic money for the use of the content based on said receive log received from said

content providing user device, and requests an account management institution to perform transfer processing for the content usage fee; and

said account management institution performs the transfer processing according to the transfer request.

3. (Original) A content secondary distribution management system according to claim 1, wherein the content to be distributed between the user devices is contained in a secure container which stores a content price and information of a usage control policy including profit distribution information which contains information of a profit to a content provider, and wherein said one of a service provider and a clearing center constructs a form of the transfer processing according to a log containing a content fee payer and a content fee receiver based on the profit distribution information.

4. (Original) A content secondary distribution management system according to claim 2, wherein the usage control policy information includes information indicating whether the secondary distribution of the content between the user devices is allowed, and wherein, upon receiving the receive log created for a content in which the secondary distribution is not allowed, said one of a service provider and a clearing center nullifies settlement processing to be performed for said receive log.

5. (Original) A content secondary distribution management system according to claim 1, wherein each of the user devices for performing the transaction of the content comprises an encryption processing unit, and, when sending and receiving data, mutual authentication processing is performed between the user devices, and the user devices attach a digital signature to data to be sent and, upon receiving the data, they verify the integrity of the digital signature.

6. (Original) A content secondary distribution management system according to claim 1, wherein each of said user devices, said service provider, and said clearing center comprises an encryption processing unit, and, when sending and receiving data, mutual authentication processing is performed, and said user devices, said service provider, and said clearing center attach a digital signature to data to be sent, and, upon receiving the data, they verify the integrity of the digital signature.

7. (Original) A content secondary distribution management system according to claim 1, wherein said clearing center comprises a user balance database for managing an electronic money balance of said content receiving user device, and said clearing center creates an issue log in which an allowable amount of money is set up to the electronic money balance registered in said user balance database, and sends said issue log to said content receiving user device.

8. (Original) A content secondary distribution management system according to claim 2, wherein the usage control policy information includes profit distribution information of the content usage fee, and wherein said usage log and said receive log include the profit distribution information, and said one of a service provider and a clearing center performs the settlement processing for the content usage fee based on the profit distribution information and also sends the transfer request to said account management institution.

9. (Original) A content secondary distribution management method for managing secondary distribution in which a transaction of content usable by a user device is performed between a plurality of user devices, said content secondary distribution management method comprising the steps of:

issuing a settlement log for the use of the content from a content providing user device to one of a service provider and a clearing center every time an identical content is distributed; and performing settlement processing for the identical content based on the settlement log under the management of said one of a service provider and a clearing center.

10. (Original) A content secondary distribution management method according to claim 9, wherein:

a content receiving user device for receiving the content deducts a content usage fee from an electronic money balance disposed in said content receiving user device up to an allowable amount of money set in an issue log based on information of a usage control policy of the content, and said content receiving user device creates a usage log including a content identifier and sends said usage log to said content providing user device;

said content providing user device creates a receive log including information of the content usage fee based on said usage log received from said content receiving user device, and sends said receive log to said one of a service provider and a clearing center;

said one of a service provider and a clearing center performs the settlement processing for the electronic money for the use of the content based on said receive log received from said content providing user device, and requests an account management institution to perform transfer processing for the content usage fee; and

said account management institution performs the transfer processing according to the transfer request.

11. (Original) A content secondary distribution management method according to claim 9, wherein the content to be distributed between the user devices is contained in a secure

container which stores a content price and information of a usage control policy including profit distribution information which contains information of a profit to a content provider, and wherein said one of a service provider and a clearing center constructs a form of the transfer processing according to a log containing a content fee payer and a content fee receiver based on the profit distribution information.

12. (Original) A content secondary distribution management method according to claim 10, wherein the usage control policy information includes information indicating whether the secondary distribution of the content between the user devices is allowed, and wherein, upon receiving the receive log created for a content in which the secondary distribution is not allowed, said one of a service provider and a clearing center nullifies settlement processing to be performed for said receive log.

13. (Original) A content secondary distribution management method according to claim 9, wherein each of the user devices for performing the transaction of the content comprises an encryption processing unit, and, when sending and receiving data, mutual authentication processing is performed between the user devices, and the user devices attach a digital signature to data to be sent and, upon receiving the data, they verify the integrity of the digital signature.

14. (Original) A content secondary distribution management method according to claim 9, wherein each of said user devices, said service provider, and said clearing center comprises an encryption processing unit, and, when sending and receiving data, mutual authentication processing is performed, and said user devices, said service provider, and said clearing center attach a digital signature to data to be sent, and, upon receiving the data, they verify the integrity of the digital signature.

15. (Original) A content secondary distribution management method according to claim 9, wherein said clearing center comprises a user balance database for managing an electronic money balance of said content receiving user device, and said clearing center creates an issue log in which an allowable amount of money is set up to the electronic money balance registered in said user balance database, and sends said issue log to said content receiving user device.

16. (Original) A content secondary distribution management method according to claim 10, wherein the usage control policy information includes profit distribution information of the content usage fee, and wherein said usage log and said receive log include the profit distribution information, and said one of a service provider and a clearing center performs the settlement processing for the content usage fee based on the profit distribution information and also sends the transfer request to said account management institution.

17. (Original) A program providing medium for providing a computer program which allows content secondary distribution management processing for managing secondary distribution in which a transaction of content usable by a user device is performed between a plurality of user devices to run on a computer system, said computer program comprising the step of issuing a settlement log for the use of the content from a content providing user device to a clearing center every time an identical content is distributed.

18. (Original) A program providing medium for providing a computer program which allows content secondary distribution management processing for managing secondary distribution in which a transaction of content usable by a user device is performed between a plurality of user devices to run on a computer system, said computer program comprising:

a step of issuing a settlement log for the use of the content every time an identical content is distributed between said plurality of user devices; and

a step of performing settlement processing for the identical content based on the settlement log.

19-79. (Cancelled).